

Politeness

Some Universals in Language Usage

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Publication date

Digital publication date: 28 May 2018

Physical publication date: 12 March 1987

This study is about the principles for constructing polite speeches. The core of it first appeared in *Questions and Politeness*, edited by Esther N. Goody (now out of print). It is here reissued with a fresh introduction that surveys the considerable literature in linguistics, psychology and the social sciences that the original extended essay stimulated, and suggests distinct directions for research. The authors describe and account for some remarkable parallelisms in the linguistic construction of utterances with which people express themselves in different languages and cultures. A motive for these parallels is isolated and a universal model is constructed outlining the abstract principles underlying polite usages. This is based on the detailed study of three unrelated languages and cultures: the Tamil of South India, the Tzeltal spoken by Mayan Indians in Chiapas, Mexico, and the English of the USA and England. This volume will be of special interest to students in linguistic pragmatics, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, anthropology, and the sociology and social psychology of interaction.

About the book

Subjects: [Anthropology](#), [Language and Linguistics](#), [Linguistic Anthropology](#), [Sociolinguistics and Language in Society](#)

Format: Paperback , Price: US\$85.00

Publication date: 12 March 1987, ISBN: 9780521313551

Format: Digital , Price: US\$85.00

Publication date: 28 May 2018, ISBN: 9780511813085

<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511813085>

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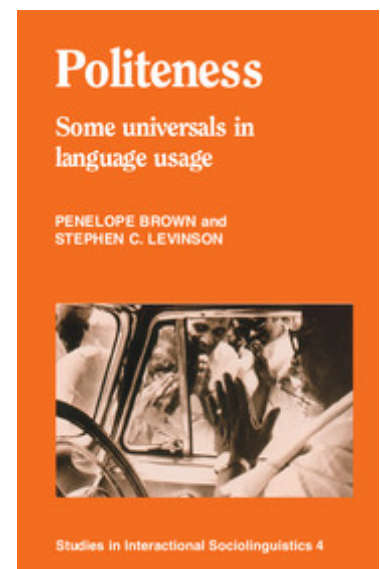
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